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砂発明の名称

ゴルフボールの製造方法

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明細

1. 発明の名称

ゴルフポールの製造方法

2. 特許請求の範囲

3. 発明の詳細な説明

産業上の利用分野

本発明は射出成形法によるツーピースゴルフポール等のゴルフポールの製造方法に関し、更に詳述すれば所望のディンプル配列において耐久性の高いゴルフポールを製造することができるゴルフポールの製造方法に関する。

従来の技術

従来、ツーピースゴルフボールの製造方法としては圧縮成形法と射出成形法が知られている。このうち、射出成形法は、一般に第4図に示したにかったカバー成形用モールド1のキャピティ2内にツーピースゴルフボールのコア3を中子として挿入し、このコア3を複数個のピン4で支持し、次いでキャピティ2内にカバーの成形材料5を射出し、多数のディンブルを有するコア3をカバーで被狙する方法が採用されている。

この場合、コアを中子としてピンで支持する方法としては、従来第5因及び第6因に示す方法がある。即ち、第5因に示す方法は、ピン4でディンプル形成都を支持するもので、ピン4の先爆部4aをディンプル6に相応した形状に形成し、カ

発明が解決すべき問題点

形成すると共に、この先端部中央部をディンプル形状に相応した形状に形成し、このピンをディンプル形成部に配置して、前記ピンの先端部外周線部をディンプル非形成平坦部にはみ出させた状態でピンの先端部中央部においてディンプルを形成するようにしたものである。

問題点を解決するための手段及び作用

プルからはみ出したピンの先鑜部外周禄部をこれ と対向するディンプル非形成平坦部から離間する ように形成した場合には、カパーにこの平坦部よ り突出した突出成形部が形成され、この突出成形 郎は歪みの大きい部分であるが、これは最後に除 去されるので、成形されたゴルフポールは歪み集 中部がなくなる。また、ピンの先端部外周禄部を これと対向するディンプル非形成平坦部と相応す る形状に形成し、このピンの先蟷部外周椂部にて ディンプル非形成平坦郎を成形するようにした場: 合でも、カバーのピン先塡周縁部近傍は歪みが生。 じ易いが、このカバーのピン周縁部近傍はディン プル形成部でなく、ディンプル非形成平坦部であ り、従ってこの部分のカバーの厚さはディンプル 形成部より厚いので、ポールが衝撃を受けてもピ ン配置位置相応部、特にピンの先端部外周録部に 相応する都分からのカパーの割れが生じることも なく、耐久性に優れたものである。

以下、本発明の一実施例につき第1図乃至第4 図を参照して説明する。

女族例

このようにしてツーピースゴルフボールを製造する場合に、第1因に示す実施例においてはコア 3を支持するピン4の先輩郎4aを略半球状に形成すると共に、その直径Dをディンル6の最大径

4でコア3を支持し、次いで、カバー成形材料 (樹脂) 5の射出のタイミングに合せてピン4を コア3からカパーに対するディンプル形成位置付 近まで退出させ、ピン4の先端中央部4bにてデ ィンプル6を形成させるものであるが、このディ ンプル形成位置において、ピン4の先端部4a は ディンプル6の最大怪より大怪であるため、先増 卸4a の外周縁却4c はディンプル 6 よりディン プル非形成平坦却7にはみ出す。そして、ピン4 がコア3から退出した場合、先端部4a は半球状 であり、外周緑部4c はディンプル 6 を形成する 中央部4 b の外端部4 b ′ より後部に存するので ディンプル非形成平坦郎7と所定間隔離間し、こ れによりこの平坦部7のディンプル6よりはみ出 したピン4の先端外周級部4c に対向する部分 7′には、ピン4のコア3からの退出につれてピ ン 4 の先瞻外周縁郎 4 c にカバー成形材料 5 が付 ^{勧した状態で上昇するため、このカバー成形材料} 5により前記平坦郎7より突出した突出成形部8 が形成される。

d よりも大怪に形成し、しかも先類部4aの中央部4b をディンプル6の形状に相応した形状に形成し、このピン4をディンプル形成部に配置し、このピン4 先類部4a の中央部4b においてディンプル6を成形するものである。

この場合、ピン4の先端部4 a はディンプル 6 の最大怪より大怪に形成されているので、ピン4 の先端部4 a の外周線部4 c は中央部4 b がディンプル 6 を形成する原にディンプル 6 よりはみ出すものである。

ここで、ピン4の先輩部4aは略半球状に形成されるが、略半球状とは、形成すべきディンプル形状に対応し、半球状のみならず半楕円球状、半多面体状等の形状をも包含するものである。また、先輩部4aのディンプル6よりはみ出す外周線部4cの外周端線4c~は限接するディンプルとの同の距離(ディンプル非形成平坦部7の距離)の1/6~1/2のところに位置するように形成することが好ましい。

この第1図の実施例においては、まず上記ピン

なお、ピン先類部4aの形状は第1図に示す場合に限られず、例えば第2図に示すようにその外間縁部4cのほぼ半分以上を平坦に形成することもできる。

また、第3回に示したように外周縁部4cをや中央部4bの外端部4b′よりディンル非形成ではもbに形状に形成し、中央部4b に で が な と 共に、外 局 縁 部 4c に て カ パーの ディンプル 非形成 平 坦 部 7 を 成 形 パーの ディンプル 非形成 平 坦 部 7 に る こ の か の チャンプル 非形 成 平 坦 部 7′ は ピン4 の 外 周縁

特開昭61-213068(4)

部4cに相当する部分であるため、歪みが集中する場合があるが、この部分はディンプル形成部に比べてカバーの厚さが厚いので、第6因の製造方法に比べてカバーの割れが確実に防止され、耐久性の十分高いゴルフボールが得られる。

なおまた、以上は主にツーピースゴルフボールの製造方法について説明したが、本発明は系巻きゴルフボールやスリーピースゴルフボール等の多圏ゴルフボールの製造において、コアにカバーを付出成形して被覆する場合に同様に採用することができるものである。

発明の効果

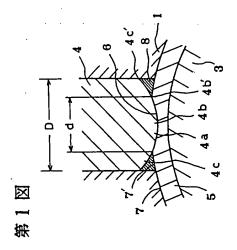
4. 図面の簡単な説明

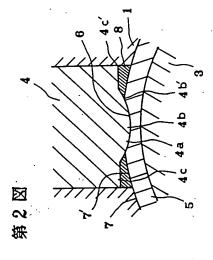
以上述べたように、本発明法はコアを支持する ピンをディンプル形成位置に配置するので、ディ ンプル非形成平坦部が狭くとも支降がなく、所望 のディンプル配列を採用することができる。また、 樹脂焼れによる歪み集中部からのカバーの割れが 良好に防止され、耐久性の向上した高品質のゴル フボールを製造することができる。 第1図乃至第3図はそれぞれ本発明方法におけるピンの配設態様の一例を示す一部省略断面図、 第4図はツーピースゴルフボールのカバー成形用 モールドの一例を示す断面図、第5図及び第6図 はそれぞれ従来法におけるピンの配設態様を示す 一部省略断面図である。

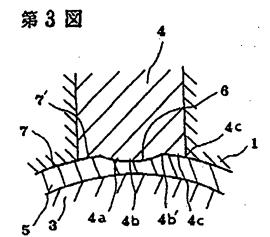
1 … モールド、 2 … キャピティ、
3 … コ ア、 4 … ピ ン、
5 … カバー成形材料、6 … ディンブル・
7 … ディンブル非形成平坦部、

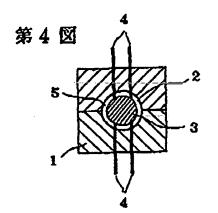
出版人 株式会社 プリヂストン 代理人 弁理士 小 島 隆 ^司

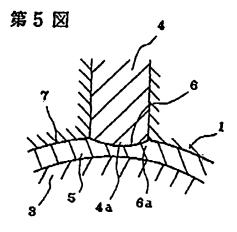
8 ... 突出成形郡。

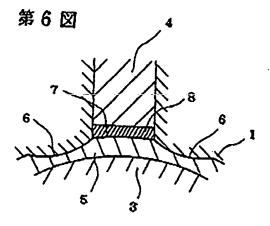












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(54) Title of Invention: Manufacturing Method of a Golf Ball

Specifications

Title of Invention: 1.

Manufacturing Method of a Golf Ball

2. Scope of the Claims:

> [Claim 1] A manufacturing method of a golf ball which is characterized in that:

- a core which serves as the center unit is inserted in a mold cavity,
- which is supported by a plurality of pins,
- a cover material is injected into said cavity to form a cover with numerous dimples,
- said core is covered with thus prepared cover,

wherein

- the diameter of each tip of said pins is greater than the maximum diameter of each said dimple,
- said tip center part is formed in such a way that it corresponds to the dimple shape,

the dimples are formed by placing the tip external rim of said pin at the tip center part of the pin in such a way that it projects over the non-dimple forming flat part.

3. Detailed Description of the Invention

Industrial Use

The present invention relates to manufacturing of a golf ball such as a two piece golf ball by the injection method, more specifically speaking, it relates to the manufacturing method of a highly durable golf ball having a desired dimple alignment.

Conventional Technologies

The pressure method and the injection method are conventionally known manufacturing methods of a two piece golf ball. Figure 4 illustrates [a typical] injection method. Core 3, as the center unit, of a two piece golf ball is inserted into Cavity 2 of cover formation mold 1, said core 3 is supported by a plurality of pins 4, then cover formation material 5 is injected into cavity 2, and core 3 is wrapped by a cover having numerous dimples.

Figure 5 and 6 illustrate how the pins may support a core as the center unit. In Figure 5, Pin 4 support the dimple forming part; tip part 4a of pin 4 is formed in such a way that it corresponds to dimple 6, and while cover forming material 5 is being injected to form a cover, dimple 6 is formed at the tip of 4a of pin 4. Figure 6 is a method in which pin 4 supports non-dimple forming part 7. In this case, immediately before the injection molding is complete, pin 4 is removed from the cavity, and thus projection 8 is formed at the position where the pin supported [stood], and projection 8 is removed by the total surface shaving method at the final stage. (JP S59-88169)

Problems Solved by the Present Invention

The method illustrated in Figure 5, however, has the following problems: distortions tend to occur due to the flowing of the resin (cover forming material) at rim vicinity 6a of dimple 6 supported by pin 4, which causes cracking of the cover from said rim vicinity 6a of dimple 6 supported by pins 4 when a shock is applied to the ball. This results in a lack of durability [of the ball]. On the other hand, the method illustrated in Figure 6 may be superior in durability because pin 4 stands at the non-dimple part. However, the diameter of pin4 is ordinarily 2 ~ 3 mm, therefore depending on how the dimple is aligned, the [provided] non-dimple forming area is small, which makes it difficult for the pin to hold the non-dimple forming part, limiting the possibility of the dimple alignment in designing.

The above is the base factor of the present invention. The object of the present invention is to provide a manufacturing method of a golf balls such as a two piece golf ball whose durability is remarkably improved, allowing any desired alignment of dimples without the associated cracking problem started at the pin supporting position.

The Means for Solving Problems and the Effects Thereof

In other words, the present invention is to provide a manufacturing method of a golf ball which is characterized in that:

- a core which serves as the center unit is inserted in a mold cavity,
- which is supported by a plurality of pins,
- a cover material is injected into said cavity to form a cover with numerous dimples,
- said core is covered with thus prepared cover, wherein

- the diameter of each tip of each said pins is greater than the maximum diameter of each said dimple,
- said tip center part is formed in such a way that it corresponds to the dimple shape,
- the dimples are formed by placing the tip external rim of said pin at the tip center part of the pin in such a way that it projects over the non-dimple forming flat part.

According to the present invention, a golf ball is formed by injecting the cover forming material while the core is being supported by a plurality of pins, the diameter of the tip of said pin is made greater than the maximum diameter of the dimple, the center of the tip is formed in such a way that it corresponds to the dimple shape, further the pin is placed at the dimple forming part. This means that because there is no problem in designing the dimple alignment, there is no need to consider [how such a problem might affect] the manufacturing method [especially in] the designing of the dimple alignment of a golf ball such as two piece golf balls. The designing and manufacturing of a desired dimple alignment has become possible. As to the problem associated with the flowing of the resin material around the rim of the pin which causes distortions in the conventional method of placing the supporting pin, the present invention [dealt with it in the following way]: the tip external rim of the pin projects over the dimple. By forming the tip external rim of the pin which projects over the dimple, in such a way that it keeps a distance from the corresponding non-dimple forming area, a projected formation which projects over the flat area is formed on the cover. This may be the part where great distortions may occur, however, since [such distortions] will be removed at the final stage, creating a golf ball without any distortion concentration is possible. Furthermore, although it tends to cause distortions at the pin tip rim area of the cover when the tip external rim part is formed in such a way that it corresponds to the non-dimple area, and the nondimple forming part is formed at the tip external rim part of the pin, the pin tip rim area of the cover is a non-dimple forming part and not a dimple forming area.

Therefore, the thickness of the cover of this part is greater than that of the dimple forming part. Hence, even when the ball receives a shock, there is no cracking of the cover which starts at the part corresponding to the pin, namely around the tip rim area. The ball manufactured according to the present invention is superior in durability.

Figures 1 through 4 illustrate one example of the present invention.

<u>Example</u>

The following is one instance in which a two piece golf ball is manufactured in accordance with the manufacturing method of the present invention. As illustrated in Figure 2, core 3 of the two piece golf ball which had been prepared separately is inserted in cavity 3 of the cover forming mold. Said core 3 is supported by a plurality of pins 4, and core 3 is placed at the center of cavity 2. Cover forming material 5 is injected into cavity 2 to form a dimpled cover, and finally said core 3 is covered with a cover. An ordinary method is applied so far. In this case, a convex part for forming a dimple is formed at cavity surface 1a of said mold 1, thus dimples are formed on the cover. If necessary, a pin for discharging air can be furnished in said cavity 2.

Figure 1 is to illustrate an example in which tip 4a of pin 4 which supports core 3 is shaped in an approximate hemisphere, diameter of which is greater than the maximum diameter of dimple 6. Center part 4b of tip 4a is formed in such a way that it corresponds to the shape of dimple 6. Then, pin 4 is placed at the dimple forming part, and dimple 6 is formed at center part 4b of tip 4a of pin 4.

In this case, dimple 6 is formed in such a way that the diameter of tip 4a of pin 4 is greater than the maximum diameter of dimple 6 so as to make external rim 4C of tip part 4a of pin 4 project over dimple 6.

Tip 4a of pin 4 is formed to be an approximate hemisphere. By "approximate hemisphere", it means that it corresponds to the shape of dimples to be formed, and it includes a semi ellipsoid [spheroid], a semi polyhedron and the like. It is preferable that external rim 4c' of external rim part 4c which projects over dimple 6 of tip 4a is placed at the position which is $1/6 \sim 1/2$ of the distance (the distance [length] of non-dimple forming part 7) between dimples.

In Figure 1, pin 4 supports core 3, then in accordance with the timing of the injection of cover forming material (resin) 5 pin 4 is moved back to the point near the dimple forming position which corresponds to the cover, and dimple 6 is formed at tip center part 4b of pin 4. At this dimple forming position, because tip part 4a of pin 4 has a diameter greater than the maximum diameter of dimple 2, the external rim of tip 4a projects over non-dimple forming flat part 7. When pin 4 is removed from core 3, tip 4a has a hemispherical shape. Because external rim 4c is located behind of external end part 4b' of center part 4b where dimple 6 is formed, give a predetermined distance [between external rim 4c] and non-dimple forming flat part 7. By [setting it up this way], at the corresponding part 7' which corresponds to tip external rim 4c of pin 4 which projects over the dimple 6 of the flat part 7, the cover forming material 5 raises as it adheres to the tip external part 4c of the pin 4 when the pin is removed from core 3, thus, projection 8 which is projected over said flat part 7 is formed of said cover forming material 5.

Once the cover is formed, it is removed from the mold, and in the end, said projection 8 is removed by the sanding or shaving method to finish a golf ball. Thus, the projected formation, which is a concentration of distortions, is removed, and a highly durable two piece golf ball can be obtained. It is easy to remove said projected formation part by the sanding or shaving method because the projected formation is formed at the external rim of the dimple.

The shape of pin tip 4a is not limited to the one illustrated in Figure 1; as shown in Figure 2, it can be formed in such a way that more than a half of the external rim 4c is flat.

Figure 3 is to illustrate external rim 4c being formed in a shape which corresponds to non-dimple forming flat part 7 from external part 4b' of center part 4b to form dimples 6 at the center part 4b. It is also possible to form a non-dimple forming flat part 7 of the cover at the external rim part 4c. In this case, non-dimple forming flat part 7' of the cover corresponds to the external rim part 4c of pin 4. It might cause distortions be concentrated at this part, however, unlike that of Figure 6, because the thickness of the cover is smaller than that of the dimple forming part, cracking of the cover is surely prevented yielding to a highly durable golf-ball.

The method of the present invention can be applied to the manufacturing of various kinds of golf balls such as thread wound golf balls, three piece golf balls and the like during the process of preparing a cover by the injection method.

Effect of the Invention

Because the core supporting pin is positioned at the dimple forming position, there is no interference even when the non-dimple forming flat part is narrow, thus any desired dimple alignment can be employed. Furthermore, it favorably prevents the cracking of a cover which starts at the part where distortions are concentrated due to the flowing of the resin material. Thus, a golf ball of a high quality with improved durability can be manufactured.

4. Brief Description of the Figures

Figure 1 through 3 are examples of the pin alignment; Figure 4 is a sectional figure illustrating one example mold for forming a cover of a two piece golf ball; Figures 5 and 6 are each to illustrate the pin alignment in accordance with the conventional method.

- 1: Mold
- 2: Cavity
- 3: Core
- 4: Pin
- 5: Cover Forming material
- 6: Dimple
- 7: Non-Dimple Forming Flat Part
- 8: Projected Formation

Applicant: Bridgestone, K.K.

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